



**MEETING SUMMARY  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
UPPER EAST COAST REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN (UECRWSP)  
ISSUES WORKSHOP  
South Florida Water Management District  
City of Stuart – City Hall  
121 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart, Florida 34994  
January 21, 2004**

**Attendees:**

Lennart Lindahl – Chairman of UECRWSP and SFWMD Governing Board Member

**WRAC Members:**

Doug Bournique

Walter Carson

Patrick Hayes

**WRAC Alternates:**

Thomas Bausch

**Interested Parties:**

Joan Baush

George Johnson

Clare Nichols

Phillip Dover

Kim Love

Marion Parsons

Doug Dycus

Linda McCarthy

Max Quackenbos

Margienta Engel

Bess McKinney

Mike Rozalski

Dick Galantowicz

Val Martin

Donna Smith

Philip Gates, Jr.

Donna Melzer

Richard Stenberg

Mary Ann Gosa

Peter Merritt

Kevin Stinnette

Helen Hickman

Paul Millar

Tom Tessier

Tom Hill

Anne Murray

Bob Ulevich

Julie Jennison

Greg New

**SFWMD Staff:**

Scott Burns

Dawn Rose

Curt Thompson

Mark Elsner

Beth Ross

David Unsell

David Gilpin-Hudson

Karen Smith

Pat Walker

John Mulliken

Keith Smith

Michelle Percy

Rick Smith

**1. Welcome and Introductions by Len Lindahl, Chairman, Upper East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan Committee and SFWMD Governing Board Member.**

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. and Chairman Lindahl welcomed everyone. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and state their affiliation.

Chairman Lindahl provided information on past events, i.e., the Ten Mile Creek Dedication ceremony held last month, the Watershed in Transition Symposium, Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Feasibility Study, and dedication of the G-160 Loxahatchee Slough structure CERP component in northeastern Palm Beach County. The structure will provide essential freshwater flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River during the dry season.

Mark Elsner and Mr. Lindahl notified the group that the District would be holding a workshop on the District's Alternative Water Supply Grant Program and the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) on February 6, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin/St. Lucie Service Center. The District is soliciting proposals for consideration of funding for fiscal year 2005. Proposals have to be submitted by 4:00 PM on April 1, 2004 to be considered for funding.

**2. Action Items from Previous Workshop by Chairman Lindahl.** Mr. Lindahl stated there was one item that staff followed up on from the November 7, 2003 workshop.

At the November 7 meeting, Linda McCarthy of FDACS expressed concern about how pasture irrigation is incorporated and characterized in the draft Demand Estimates chapter. Staff met with Ms. McCarthy and the language has been modified to address her concerns.

Mr. Lindahl expressed his appreciation to Linda for bringing this our attention.

**3. Overview of Process for Plan Update for Plan Update, Mark Elsner, Lead Engineer, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.**

Chairman Lindahl summarized his participation at recent meeting on water supply, comprehensive land use plans, and the water supply needs for various communities. Regional water management agencies will have to supply the answers to the treatment and distribution of water. The District is not in the business of supply. He indicated this Plan Update should be as user friendly as possible in relation to local government planners being able to easily use the UEC Plan format in considering their planning efforts. Staff will look at the ways to accomplish this.

Mr. Elsner provided an update to the planning process. He indicated two additional workshops were added to the schedule, one on April 2, 2004 and May 28, 2004. The May 28 workshop is scheduled as "if needed", and will be based on the degree of comments received from FDEP on the draft Plan. The purpose of the April 2 workshop is to review the final draft plan prior to presenting it to the full WRAC and Governing Board, and forwarding it to FDEP for formal review. The goal of staff is to receive input from the stakeholders prior to asking for authorization from the Governing Board or FDEP. The final Plan will be presented for approval to the Governing Board at their June meeting. Staff is scheduling meetings with local government planning departments to discuss development of the Plan, and how the Plan can assist them in meeting their comprehensive and water supply facilities planning requirements. In addition, presentations to local elected bodies will be scheduled in March to inform them of the proposed issues and recommendations of the Plan Update.

Chairman Lindahl spoke on projected growth in counties and the differences in projections by agencies on their Land Use Plans. Population and business growth is very important and obtaining accurate figures is crucial to the Land Use Plans.

#### **4. Discuss Chapter 4 (Issue Identification) and Consolidated Water Supply Support Document by Mark Elsner.**

Mr. Elsner provided information on the contents of Chapter 4, which was distributed at the last meeting, and asked for feedback on the document.

One stakeholder stated the potential impacts of increased withdrawals needs to be expanded and more emphasis be placed on controlling maximum flows. Additionally, releases from Lake Okeechobee via the S-80 need to be considered as an issue. Furthermore, the District needs to look past the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and include other environmental systems. He requested the District get more specific on environmental water supply and water reservations to benefit the natural systems.

Chairman Lindahl spoke on establishing minimum flows and levels, recovery and restoration efforts that are currently underway. He mentioned analysis that has been done in other related planning efforts in the region and said that would be of help in the planning process.

Another stakeholder raised the issue of the tributaries to the Loxahatchee River. Specifically, that optimum flows and water storage need to be incorporated into the Plan. Restoration efforts are underway on some of these tributaries. Structural and non-structural solutions were discussed.

Abandonment and plugging of Floridan Aquifer wells was discussed. It was stated that an inventory of wells was currently being developed through the District's Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) renewal process. There are several thousand Floridan wells in the UEC Planning Area. CUP renewals will be used to help locate and determine the status of Floridan wells. As part of the renewal process, the District requires applicants to identify all Floridan wells on their property. Funding for well plugging was discussed. Chairman Lindahl said there maybe support for counties to implement processes to improve management of Floridan wells in their areas. There maybe seed money available for projects from various agencies. Mr. Lindahl stated that some sort of special legislative appropriation might be the course to take to seek funding.

Rather than discuss the Consolidated Water Supply Support Document, considering the time and the agenda for the rest of the meeting, Mr. Elsner asked that comments be sent to him via e-mail or hard copy.

A comment was made regarding the significance of individual self-supply wells for domestic and irrigation use. These wells are exempt from District permitting. In some areas, there are concentrations of these wells that cumulatively could increase the potential for salt-water intrusion and the potential for harm to natural systems. The

expense involved with regulating individual homes and why domestic self-supply is exempt were discussed by Beth Ross, Attorney in the Office of Counsel, SFWMD.

#### **5. Water Source Options & Recommendations- Introduction by Mark Elsner.**

Mr. Elsner discussed the next phase of the Plan, which is the development of conclusions and recommendations. Now that regional water supply issues have been identified, eight source options were considered in addressing these issues: conservation, water reuse, aquifer storage & recovery, surface water storage (reservoirs), ocean water, Floridan aquifer system, utility interconnects and surficial aquifer system. Out of the eight, the following four have the greatest potential for addressing the issues: conservation, water reuse, surface water storage (reservoirs), and continued use of the Floridan aquifer system (in addition to continued use of the surficial aquifer system at existing withdrawal levels). The preliminary conclusion of the 2004 Update is that the needs of the region can continued to be met with appropriate management and diversification of water supply sources. Potential conclusions of the Plan were reviewed by Mr. Elsner and discussed by the stakeholders.

Recommendations will be broken down into two components: (1) water resource development, and (2) water supply development. These are statutorily required. Water resource development is regional in nature and primarily responsibility of the District. Water supply development is local in nature and primarily the responsibility of the utility companies.

#### **6. Water Conservation Approach & Opportunities by Bruce Adams, Water Conservation Officer, Planning & Development, Water Supply Department.**

Mr. Adams presented information on water conservation principles. He stated that sustainable efforts utilizing technology and hardware are the basis of the District's water conservation program.

Information on agricultural and urban water conservation was provided. The current water conservation efforts were reviewed. Current CUP requirements for water utilities state that they must address the following:

1. Xeriscape code;
2. Leak detection/repair >10%;
3. Water conservation based rate structure;
4. Daytime irrigation ordinance;
5. Ultra-low volume plumbing code;
6. Rain switch ordinance;
7. Public education program; and
8. Reuse feasibility study.

Mr. Adams summarized the District's approach to designing effective conservation programs through evaluating the potential by determining the current and past utility conservation practices; conducting analysis of housing stock and characterizing use patterns by service area and per capita trends. Information on the potential water and

cost priority application and the potential water savings/retrofit priority application was supplied, and is offered as a tool for local governments to plan their conservation efforts.

Mr. Adams presented some Plan recommendation concepts for discussion. The concepts are:

1. The District will provide assistance and guidance in utility service area analysis to determine potential water conservation capabilities;
2. Continue to support Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs);
3. Continue to encourage agricultural conversion to low volume on a voluntary basis where feasible;
4. Continue Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP) for water saving devices; and
5. Continue Alternative Water Supply (AWS) funding program for capital construction projects.

One stakeholder addressed environmental water supply of the natural system and asked that this be incorporated in the conservation plan. Another stakeholder discussed mandating new homes be restricted on the amount of turf grass for landscaping by local ordinances or codes. Chairman Lindahl said that the District has no authority to enact ordinances; this is the responsibility of local governments.

## **7. Recommendation Concepts by Mark Elsner**

Mr. Elsner stated that the purpose of this presentation is to get feedback on concepts staff proposes for recommendations for the Plan. Staff will take stakeholders feedback and draft recommendations that reflect these concepts for discussion at the next workshop. Mr. Elsner reviewed recommendation concepts for water reuse, Floridan Aquifer, storage, water reuse and others.

The water reuse recommendation concepts developed by staff were presented. There was discussion on local government adoption of mandatory reuse zones requiring use of reclaimed water, as well as retrofitting in urban areas. The availability of AWS Grant funding for reclaimed water systems was explained by Mr. Elsner. Stormwater use for urban areas was also discussed.

Surface water storage recommendation concepts were reviewed. There was support for evaluating and identifying the benefits of developing a connection of the C-25 basin with the SJRWMD. Henry Dean and Kirby Green, Executive Director of the SFWMD and SJRWMD, respectively, have discussed this concept. Bob Ulevich asked to be placed on the agenda for a future workshop to provide a 10-15 minute presentation on the benefits of developing this connection.

Environmental recommendation concepts were presented. Suggested changes were made to the recommendations.

[Chairman Lindahl left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.]

The environmental effects on drawdowns due to water use were discussed.

Funding assistance programs from the District were discussed. These include the Alternative Water Supply Grant Program and the Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP). WaterSIP provides financial incentives for conservation measures. Since 2002, the District has provided \$450,000 for water savings incentives. In response to a question, this program is probably not appropriate for funding of decommissioning Floridan Aquifer wells.

The Alternative Water Supply Grant Program has been very successful. In the last six years, 19 projects were funded in the Upper East Coast at a cost of \$3.1 million. Projects included reclaimed water projects, Floridan aquifer projects and stormwater reuse projects.

As mentioned previously, a workshop has been scheduled on February 6, 2004 at the District's Service Center in Stuart to discuss these two funding programs. For Fiscal Year 2005, applications for consideration of funding can be obtained on the District's website under "Procurement".

Other recommended concepts were to provide technical assistance to local governments in development of a 10-year plan for building water supply facilities to serve existing and new development.

#### **8. Public Comment.**

Kevin Stinnette, representing Indian Riverkeepers, Jensen Beach, Florida expressed thanks for the dedication by SFWMD staff to address the water needs of the environment, and especially minimum and maximum flows.

**9. Wrap Up/Action Items by Mark Elsner.** The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA/ARS facility at 2001 South Rock Road, Ft. Pierce.

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

---

**Lennart Lindahl**  
**Chairman – UECRWSP**

---

**Paula Moree**  
**District Deputy Clerk**

---